WRITTEN ANSWER TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Assistance to shrimp farmers by MPEDA

2969. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MPEDA is considering a proposal to set up branches at Rajahmundry and Bhimavaram in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that the hinterland around Rajahmundry and Bhimavaram supply huge quantities of shrimp for export;

(c) what steps will be taken to assist shrimp farmers with the latest scientific knowledge by MPEDA;

(d) whether any such scheme is already in place by MPEDA for these areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) A Sub-Regional Centre at Bhimavaram and the Quality Control Laboratory at Nellore and Bhimavaram in Andhra Pradesh have been set up by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA). There is no proposal to set up any other field office of MPEDA at Rajahmundry and Bhimavaram.

(b) As per information received from the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh, which include the areas of Rajahmundry and Bhimavaram, produce sizable quantities of brackish water shrimp and freshwater prawn for export.

(c) to (e) Technical assistance is extended by MPEDA to the farmers for improvement and development of aquaculture. Workshops, media campaigns, etc. are also organized by MPEDA to educate the aqua farmers.

Guidelines to patent gene sequences

2970. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: